

is developing a new rate structure and the availability of the LRP for new projects is uncertain; the Authority will consider whether it would be better served to expand existing programs for local area agency funding on its own account.

The Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act – Title XVI

The Title XVI Grant Program is a significant source of funding for San Diego area recycling projects. Title XVI of Public Law 102-575, the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act, authorizes the federal government to fund up to 25 percent of the capital cost of authorized recycling projects, including the San Diego Area Water Reclamation Program, an inter-connected system of recycling projects serving the Metropolitan Sewage System service area. PL104-266, the Reclamation Recycling and Water Conservation Act of 1996, authorized two additional projects in northern San Diego County: the North San Diego County Area Water Recycling Project and the Mission Basin Brackish Groundwater Desalting Demonstration Project. To date, the USBR has obligated more than \$38 million in Title XVI funds for San Diego projects, including more than \$10.1 million obligated during Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 1999. The FFY2000 Budget includes an additional \$12.1 million for San Diego area projects.

State Revolving Fund/Water Reclamation Loan Program The State Revolving Fund (SRF) and the Water Reclamation Loan Program (WRLP) provide agencies with low-interest construction loans for water recycling and groundwater projects. The SRF and WRLP loans carry an interest rate equal to 50 percent of the state's general obligation bond interest rate. This below-market interest rate can result in substantial savings on debt service. In November 1996, Proposition 204 was approved by the voters and provided \$80 million for the SRF and \$60 million for WRLP. Proposition 13, approved by the voters in March 2000, provides an additional \$40 million for low-interest loans and grants for design and construction of water recycling projects to the existing water recycling funding program. Combining this with loan repayments from prior loans and funds remaining from Proposition 204, over \$100 million is available.

Policies, Ordinances, and Guidance Documents

The Authority has adopted a number of policies, guidance documents, and a model ordinance to assist local agencies with water recycling project implementation. Many local agencies have adopted the Authority-sponsored ordinance. The ordinance includes provisions that typically require new development projects to install recycled water systems. The ordinance also states that where allowed by law and available in sufficient quantities, at a reasonable cost and quality, recycled water shall be the sole water supply delivered for non-potable uses.

Water recycling guidance documents available from the Authority include, Model Rules and Regulations for Recycled Water Service, Construction Specifications for Recycled Water Systems, Retrofit Guidelines, and a recycled water user's manual.

Training

The Authority, in partnership with other water agencies, offers a one-day certified course designed to provide irrigation supervisors with a basic understanding of recycled water. Completion of the Recycled Water Site Supervisor Training fulfills the training requirement as mandated by regulatory authorities. The class provides information to supervisors on the water recycling process, recycled water quality and safety issues, the duties and responsibilities of the supervisor, landscape irrigation fundamentals, maintenance and management, and cross connection control shut-down tests and inspections. Understanding similarities and differences between recycled and potable water is important to the successful operation of a recycled water system.

The first class started in 1993 with 14 participants. At this time over 500 participants have been certified. Instructors include a state registered environmental health specialist and environmental assessor, water quality chemist/reclamation specialist and landscape specialists.

Optimizing the Use of Recycled Water – Regional Perspective

While local agencies typically expand and develop their respective recycled water projects independently based on local interests, the Authority is conducting a study that will identify opportunities to expand the region's recycled water projects and develop a regional system or systems that could maximize reuse on a regional scale. This study, named the "Regional Recycled Water System

Alternatives Analysis (Regional Recycling Study)" is scheduled for completion in early 2001. The Regional Recycling Study will identify opportunities to develop a regional recycled water system(s) that would potentially utilize Authority and local agency facilities. The USBR is conducting a similar study, on a much larger study area, called the "Southern California Comprehensive Water Reclamation and Reuse Study (SCCWRRS)." The SCCWRRS was started about five years ago and is in its final phase. It is due for completion by the end of year 2000. The Authority's Regional Recycling Study will build on work from SCCWRRS and has a more focused and detailed objective than SCCWRRS. The two studies will be closely coordinated and the Authority's Regional Recycling Study will utilize the data previously collected for the SCCWRRS.

